

his devotion to public service, Sandifer was recently inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor. Sadly, he passed away just hours after this induction ceremony, as the result of complications brought about by cancer.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of David Sandifer. May God continue to bless his beloved wife, Pat, and all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for three rollcall votes on Tuesday, April 22.

If I had been present I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 205, on passage of H. Res. 981—Recognizing March 6, 2008, as the first-ever World Glaucoma Day, established to increase awareness of glaucoma, which is the second leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States and worldwide, Representative BALDWIN—Energy and Commerce—I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 206, on passage of H.R. 5151—Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places—I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 207, on passage of H.R. 831—Coffman Cove Administrative Site Conveyance Act—I would have voted “yea.”

#### RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary of Statehood.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion announced to the world that the State of Israel had been created. This declaration was made in accordance with the United Nations Resolution 181 which was passed in November 1947. The creation of two states was proposed, one Jewish and one Palestinian. The new State of Israel established an opportunity for Ben-Gurion and other Zionists to realize a return to the “promised land.”

Although the new state would be tested immediately following its creation, its citizens, supporters and ideals would hold. Even at the conclusion of the first Arab-Israeli War, a constant barrage of state and non-state actors would seek to destroy this government. Sixty years later this battle continues, as the entire world copes with the challenging yet necessary task of respecting the beliefs of others and protecting the natural rights of all mankind.

The “land of milk and honey” is significant not only for its ability to offer refuge to a peo-

ple who have been persecuted for the past two millennia, but to also demonstrate the global communities' determination to right wrongs and to help their fellow man. Today there are close to 7 million individuals who inhabit Israel. Although the vast majority of those persons happen to be Jewish, there are also people who follow the Christian and Arab faiths. While there happens to be conflict currently between the Jewish and Muslim populations, the possibility of Israelis and Palestinians coexisting in peace is still feasible.

As a Member of Congress, I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit Israel, to talk with those that live there and to see the success that it has become. There exists within the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio and across the United States, a strong community of individuals who are committed to supporting our close ally. I am proud to consider myself a fellow advocate and look forward to supporting the State of Israel in the future.

May the people and the government of Israel continue to enjoy their statehood and be blessed with peace.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the 60th anniversary of the creation of Israel. On May 14, 1948, thousands of volunteer Yishuv fighters led by David Ben-Gurion celebrated as the Jewish Agency declared Israel an independent nation in accordance with the 1947 U.N. partition plan. The difficult months of fighting ahead were only eased by the knowledge that the volunteer army was fighting for its new and independent nation. U.S. President Harry S. Truman immediately recognized Israel as a sovereign and independent nation forging a bond between our two great democracies that has been one of mutual support and friendship ever since.

The people of Israel have, over the 60 years since Israel has become an independent state, established a vibrant democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices. Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, and is among the world's leaders in the high-tech industry. Israel has also bravely defended itself from numerous military attacks and acts of terrorism.

I stand with my colleagues and with my nation to celebrate the 60 years of a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect. I am a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 322 that was introduced by Speaker PELOSI to celebrate this important milestone. On this occasion I also want to highlight the efforts that Israel and its leaders have made to make a lasting peace with its neighbors. I would like to extend my

warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLADY E. LAUGHLIN

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gladly E. Laughlin, who passed away on February 23, 2008.

Gladly E. Laughlin played an integral role throughout the Laughlin, Nevada community where she was an outstanding civic leader and dedicated community advocate. Gladly was an educator with the Clark County School District for over twenty years, where she was a dedicated advocate for the children of Laughlin, expanding education programs and social services. Her efforts have inspired generations of students to achieve academic excellence. Among her many community achievements and honors, Gladly was most proud of her service to her community as the principal of the William G. Bennett Elementary School from 1993–2005.

Gladly was also a member on the Laughlin Town Advisory Board and served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of the Colorado River, the Laughlin Family Resource Center, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Colorado River. Gladly was also actively involved with the Laughlin Community Church. She volunteered with the church's choir, praise-worship teams, and served as a spiritual leader and mentor.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of Gladly E. Laughlin for her many years of leadership and community service to the Laughlin community. Those who have worked with her on a professional and personal level agree that Gladly has done profound work throughout the community. Gladly was a wonderful individual and a great force on behalf of the people of Laughlin. She is survived by her husband of over 40 years, Pat Laughlin and her two sons Rob and Jim Laughlin. She will be profoundly missed.

#### DEREK RIEMER

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Derek Riemer who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Derek Riemer is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Derek Riemer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Derek Riemer for winning the Arvada